

**Testimony for Public Hearing  
Human Services Committee  
March 10, 2022**

**Polly C. Moran, MSN, CNM, CT-Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives  
104 Whitney St., Hartford, CT 06105**

**In support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS  
FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS  
OF IMMIGRATION STATUS**

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Polly Moran and I have practiced Nurse-Midwifery for over 30 years in the Bristol and Hartford communities, both communities with sizable immigrant communities. I write in support of SB 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY for all minors regardless of immigration status is an essential and needed step toward ensuring that CT's immigrant community has access to the healthcare they need and deserve.

I firmly believe that healthcare is a right. The Affordable Care Act placed preventative health, strategies to improve health outcomes, and issues of equity and affordability front and center in our healthcare system. Yet, despite the reform, too often members of many communities in Connecticut have inadequate access to care across their life span and this has both a public health and economic impact. This is especially true for families living here who are undocumented. Last year the state of Connecticut expanded access to HUSKY to children of undocumented immigrants ages 0-8 years. This year with the passage of SB 284 we would ensure that children will not age out of coverage once they turn 9 years old and be left without healthcare; it will provide access to HUSKY up until age 18.

As a nurse-midwife, I know that the entry point of care for reproductive health is during adolescence. Many of our teenagers are unable to access preventive reproductive health care. Issues around contraception, STI prevention, identification, and treatment can not be addressed for our immigrant adolescent undocumented teens. This puts them at risk for unwanted pregnancies, negative health outcomes, and negatively impacts their future.

Improving health care for all families in Connecticut means access to health care and health insurance. We need to insure that the undocumented community has coverage for critical health services. Expanding that coverage in Connecticut is essential. In the long term, we need to ensure that all immigrants, including parents and adults, are able to have access to HUSKY and the healthcare they need. The state of Connecticut must create a long term plan to expand HUSKY access to our whole immigrant community.

Thank you for your time.